

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BORDEA 00149 011624Z

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT, FR

SUBJECT: JACQUES CHABAN-DELMAS S POLITICAL POSITION AFTER THE
THE CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT.

THERE HAS BEEN MUCH LOCAL SPECULATION CONCERNING THE
POLITICAL ROLE JACQUES CHABAN-DELMAS, FORMER PRIME MINISTER
AND PRESENT UDR DEPUTY-MAYOR OF BORDEAUX, WILL PLAY AS A
RESULT OF THE RESIGNATION OF JACQUES CHIRAC, AND THE ADVENT
OF THE RAYMOND BARRE GOVERNMENT. THE GENERAL CONSENSUS
LOCALLY IS THAT CHABAN-DELMAS S POLITICAL POSITION HAS BEEN
ENHANCED BY THE CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

A) THE REMOVAL OF JACQUES CHIRAC HIS MAJOR PERSONAL RIVAL

AS PRIME MINISTER,

B) THE COMPOSITION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT WHICH INCLUDES
PERSONALITIES CLOSE TO CHABAN-DELMAS, INCLUDING THE NEW
MINISTER OF STATE OLIVIER GUICHARD, THE MINISTER RESPONSIBLE
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PAGE 02 BORDEA 00149 011624Z

FOR RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT, ROBERT BOULIN, AND DANIEL

DOUSTIN, THE REGIONAL PREFET OF THE AQUITAINE WHO HAS BEEN NAMED DIRECTOR OF RAYMOND BARRE S CABINET.

C) INDICATIONS THAT CHABAN-DELMAS WILL TAKE A MORE ACTIVE ROLE NOW IN THE EXECUTIVE BUREAU OF THE UDR WHICH HE HAS MORE OR LESS IGNORED SINCE 1974.

2. IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW IN THE REGIONAL DAILY SUD-OUEST, CHABAN-DELMAS WAS ASKED IF THE BARRE GOVERNMENT COULD BE CATEGORIZED AS ONE OF 'REVENGE'. CHABAN ANSWERED, 'CERTAINLY NOT LET US HOPE THAT IT WILL BE ONE WHICH WILL BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH INFLATION AND FACILITATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES'. AS TO HIS IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVES, CHABAN-DELMAS STATED THAT HIS FIRST RESPONSIBILITIES WOULD BE TO ACCOMPLISH EFFECTIVELY HIS TASKS AS THE MAYOR OF BORDEAUX AND THE HEAD OF THE URBAN COMMUNITY, AND AS PRESIDENT OF THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL OF THE AQUITAINE. HE DEFINED THE FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT TASK AS THE UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION IN THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR AND IN OTHER SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY, PRINCIPALLY THE AGRICULTURAL. (SEE BORDEAUX 148). AS A PARLIAMENTARIAN, HE STATES THAT HE WILL ADOPT HIS POSITION ON THE MERITS OF THE VARIOUS PROJECTS THE NEW GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO REDRESS THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SITUATION. ONE OF CHABAN-DELMAS S MAIN THEMES AFTER THE NOMINATION OF THE BARRE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN 'UNITY OF ACTION ON THE PART OF THE UDR' AND 'VIGILANCE'. HE HAS STATED PUBLICLY THAT THE GAULLISTS SHOULD COOPERATE WITH OLIVIER GUICHARD, AS THE LEADING UDR MEMBER OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

3. AS FOR ROBERT BOULIN, THE NEW MINISTER CHARGED WITH PARLIAMENTARY RELATIONS, AND THE UDR DEPUTY-MAYOR OF LIBOURNE, HE HAS BEEN ASKED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS RECENTLY WHETHER OR NOT HIS ENTRY INTO THE GOVERNMENT CAN BE CONSIDERED TO BE A 'RAPPROCHEMENT' BETWEEN THE FOLLOWERS OF CHABAN-DELMAS AND THOSE OF GISCARD D ESTAING. BOULIN HAS RESPONDED NEGATIVELY TO THESE INQUIRIES AND HAS CHARACTERIZED THEM AS 'RIDICULOUS' HE SPECIFICALLY STATED 'I AM NOT TODAY DELEGATED BY THE MAYOR OF BORDEAUX TO REPRESENT HIM NOR TO EXPRESS ANY RANCOUR. BOULIN HAS STATED THAT GIVEN THE SERIOUS ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ISSUES WHICH FRANCE FACES, PERSONAL QUARRELS SHOULD BE SET UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BORDEA 00149 011624Z

ASIDE AND THE COHESION OF THE MAJORITY SHOULD BE MAINTAINED. ON THE OTHER HAND, BOULIN HAS STATED LOCALLY THAT HE HAS NEVER HIDDEN HIS LONG STANDING FRIENDSHIP WITH JACQUES CHABAN-DELMAS AND THE FACT THAT HE SUPPORTED HIM DURING THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN IN 1974.

4. IN SUM, THE DEPARTURE OF JACQUES CHIRAC AND THE ADVENT OF THE RAYMOND BARRE GOVERNMENT, WHICH INCLUDE PERSONS CLOSE

TO THE DEPUTY-MAYOR OF BORDEAUX, CHABAN-DELMAS S POLITICAL
POSITION HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT ENHANCED DURING THIS PRE-ELECTORAL
PERIOD BEFORE THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN 1977 AND THE
LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS IN 1978.DJEREJIAN

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